

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units ~~data~~ through said network;

multiplexing means for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring the data unit ~~data~~ and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring the data unit ~~data~~; and

transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network,

wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

2. (Currently Amended) An information-processing method for information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units data through said network;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring the data unit data and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring the data unit data; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network,

wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one more data units data through said network;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring data and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring data; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network,

wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

4. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units data through said network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said data,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that a first party initiated the action of transferring the one or more data units data and the second magnitude is a

negative magnitude indicating that a second party initiated the action of transferring the one or more data units~~data~~; and

accounting means for determining the party determined by said judgment means to be a side initiating an action for transferring the one or more data units~~data~~ through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network,

wherein the transferred data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

5. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring an amount of data exchanged through said network; and

second acquisition means for acquiring a unit price per unit data for data exchanged through said network,

wherein said accounting means computes a price of transferred data on the basis of an amount of data acquired by said first acquisition means and a unit price acquired by said second acquisition means.

6. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said second acquisition means further acquires a sign of said unit price, and said accounting means drives said transmission side or said reception side determined to be a side not initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting in case said sign is negative.

7. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing method for an accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units ~~data~~ through a network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said one or more data units~~data~~,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that a first party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~the one or more data units and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that a second party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~the one or more data units; and

an accounting step of determining the party determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring ~~data~~the one or more data units through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network,

wherein the transferred data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an accounting-processing apparatus for processing an accounting process of data transmitted through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units~~data~~ through said network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said ~~data~~ one or more data units,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that a first party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~ the one or more data units and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that a second party initiated the action of transferring ~~data~~ the one or more data units; and

an accounting step of determining the party determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring ~~data~~ the one or more data units through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network,

wherein the transferred data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.